

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 23 and 24 are pending. Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 USC 112 second paragraph. Claims 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Yan (6,025,988).

35 USC 112 SECOND PARAGRAPH REJECTION OF CLAIM 24

Claim 23 stands rejected indefinite. This claim has been amended to clarify the invention as follows:

24. (Currently amended) A flex circuit for a disk drive voice-coil actuator, comprising:

a source control bundle (360) for positioning control of a plurality of read-write heads (200-206) and shared by each of a plurality of micro-actuators (300-606) included in a voice-coil actuator for a disk drive;

a first control signal included in the source control bundle;

a connection for the first control signal to the control bundle; and

a bridge coupling region (210-216) providing connections for each micro-actuator (300-306) between said source control bundle on a main flex circuit (220) and a micro-actuator control bundle (310-316) on a bridge flex circuit for each of said read-write heads.

Consequently, the Applicant requests that this rejection be removed from this Claim.

35 USC 102(B) REJECTION OF CLAIM 23

Claim 23 stands rejected as anticipated by Yan. This claim has been amended to clarify the invention as follows:

23. (Currently amended) An interconnecting circuit for a voice-coil actuator with multiple sliders and corresponding ~~microactuators~~ micro-actuators in a disk drive, comprising:

a main flex circuit (220) with interconnections for a read-write preamplifier (222) for said multiple sliders, a ribbon cable socket (226), a micro-actuator source control bundle (360) shared by each of said micro-actuators, and a bridge coupling region (250);

a plurality of bridge flex circuits (200-216) each including interconnected bridge flex circuit coupling sites (350, 352), slider contact areas, and test probe areas;

a cleavage line (330, 332) included in each of the plurality of bridge flex circuits (200-216) and providing for a separation and removal of said test probe areas after a manufacturing test for continuity; and

a reflow solder connection of the main flex circuit (220) and all the plurality of bridge flex circuits (200-216) at said bridge coupling region (250) and bridge flex circuit coupling sites (350, 352).

The Applicant disagrees with this rejection for the following reasons: Yan teaches a preamplifier (44) that interacts with just one read-write head and cannot be used for multiple read-write heads. Further Yan does not teach a micro-actuator source control bundle shared by

each of the micro-actuators. Consequently, the Applicant requests that this rejection be removed from this Claim.

35 USC 102(B) REJECTION OF CLAIM 24

Claim 23 stands rejected as anticipated by Yan. This claim has been amended to clarify the invention as follows:

24. (Currently amended) A flex circuit for a disk drive voice-coil actuator, comprising:

a source control bundle (360) for positioning control of a plurality of read-write heads (200-206) and shared by each of a plurality of micro-actuators (300-606) included in a voice-coil actuator for a disk drive;

~~a first control signal included in the source control bundle;~~

~~a connection for the first control signal to the control bundle; and~~

a bridge coupling region (210-216) providing connections for each micro-actuator (300-306) between said source control bundle on a main flex circuit (220) and a micro-actuator control bundle (310-316) on a bridge flex circuit for each of said read-write heads.

The Applicant disagrees with this rejection for the following reasons: Yan does not teach a micro-actuator source control bundle shared by each of the micro-actuators. Consequently, the Applicant requests that this rejection be removed from this Claim.

SUMMARY OF THESE REMARKS:

All rejections raised in the received Office Action have been addressed. The amended Claims as presented do not introduce new matter, nor do they represent an agreement with the Examiner's anticipation rejection of these Claims. The amendments have been made strictly for the purpose of expediting the prosecution of this patent application. Consequently, the Applicant requests that this application be placed in condition for allowance.

Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Earle Jennings or Gregory Smith, as listed below, for a telephonic interview if so doing would expedite the prosecution of the application.

Very respectfully submitted,

/Earle Jennings/

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